



Leader

8/25 - Colossians 1:15-23

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?
[Dialogue]
2. Let's read our primary text. When you finish reading a text like this, what thought, or word are you left with? How does this text "land" on your heart?
[Dialogue]
3. What other texts in the Bible echo this same sentiment regarding Christ?
[Examples: Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-5, Ephesians 1:3-13]
4. Why do you think Paul decided to speak so strongly about the person of Christ in the opening chapter?
The Colossians were navigating currents of heresy that diminished or denied the deity of Christ. These heretics believed Jesus was simply a created being that emanated from God. Addressing this was at the top of the priority list for Paul. He wanted to remove any doubt or confusion about Jesus' identity, that Jesus was and is Lord over all things.
5. Verse 15 says that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. The Bible also says we are made in His image (or in His likeness). How are we like God? How are we not like God?
We are like God in that we have rational personality. We possess intellect, emotion, and will, enabling us to think, feel, and choose. We are unlike God in that he is holy and we are by nature sinful, and we also do not possess such attributes such as His omniscience, immutability, omnipresence, etc... Essentially, we are human, He is divine. In Christ, the invisible God became visible. Jesus is the "radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature" (Hebrews 1:1-4).
6. What does it mean that Jesus is the firstborn of all creation? Or the firstborn from the dead? Was Jesus created by God?
When referring to Jesus, the use of "firstborn" in the Bible is speaking of Jesus' position or rank. To be the "firstborn" is not necessarily a chronological statement meaning that you were born first, it most often meant that you had the right of the inheritance. One well-known example of this is Esau and Jacob - Esau was born first, but Jacob was considered the "firstborn" and heir to the inheritance.

7. What are the implications of verse 19; "in him the fullness of God was pleased to dwell"?

In Jesus, God's presence not only was able to dwell in Him, but "pleased" to dwell in Him. Since Jesus was God, He had a capacity for His presence, a holiness that was other.

8. Does this passage contain the fundamental elements of the gospel? What elements of the gospel are present here?

[Dialogue]

9. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is it apparent to others that Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity? Would anyone like to share the gospel with the group?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- The McArthur Commentary Series (Colossians and Philemon).
- Christ-Centered Exposition (Colossians and Philemon). Pace, Akin.